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cont'd*

14. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein the evaporating step includes the substep of purging the chamber with an inert gas.

15. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein the substrate includes a stent.

16. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein the mixture is introduced in the introducing step so that the micro-droplets isotropically impact on the surface.

17. (New) An ultrasonic nozzle assembly, comprising:
a front ultrasonic horn section;
a rear ultrasonic horn section;
a piezoelectric element arranged between the front horn section and the rear horn section;
an output section extending from the front ultrasonic horn section to an atomizing surface; and
passageway configured to connect a source of gas to a gas outlet separate from the output section.

18. (New) An apparatus for coating a substrate with an organic compound, comprising:

a vacuum chamber;
a source of a mixture of a liquid and the organic compound;
an ultrasonic nozzle configured and arranged to introduce the mixture of the liquid and the organic compound into the chamber in the form of micro-droplets so that the micro-droplets impact on the substrate to coat the substrate with the mixture; and
an arrangement configured to evaporate the liquid from the coated substrate.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the substrate includes a stent.

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20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the arrangement includes controllable source of an inert gas.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising an arrangement configured to control a pressure in the chamber to a controlled pressure.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the liquid is volatile at the controlled pressure.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the nozzle is configured and arranged to introduce the mixture so that the micro-droplets isotropically impact on the surface.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendments adds new claims 11 to 23. Accordingly, claims 1 to 23 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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